

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for detecting the presence of a person in an environment monitored by a surveillance system that has at least one sensor, wherein the person's presence in the
5 environment is likely to result in harm, comprising:
a face detection module coupled to the at least one sensor; and
an electronic control module capable of receiving a signal output from the face
detection module;
wherein the electronic control module sends a signal to initiate remedial action to
10 reduce the likelihood of harm.
2. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surveillance system includes a video camera.
- 15 3. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the remedial action comprises triggering an alarm.
4. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic control module is
capable of receiving a detection signal from a sensor detecting the presence of a condition
20 in the environment that poses a threat to human health.
5. The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the electronic control module is
capable of sending an electronic signal to an environmental control system for reducing
or eliminating the condition in the environment that poses the threat to human health.
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6. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal to initiate remedial action
initiates one of opening and securing an accessway to the confined space.
7. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the environment comprises an interior
30 portion of a vehicle, further comprising:

a driver detection module capable of sending a detection signal to the electronic control module for detecting the presence of a driver.

8. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electronic control module sends the
5 signal to initiate remedial action after a delay time.

9. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electronic control module receives the signal output from the face detection module via an on-board car bus.

10 10. The system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a face recognition module for comparing a detected face to a known database of faces and for identifying a scenario in which a high likelihood of illegitimate access to the environment exists;
wherein the signal to initiate remedial action is intended to safeguard at least a
15 portion of the environment.

11. In a confined space that includes a surveillance system that uses at least one sensor, a method for safeguarding a person whose presence is detected in the confined space, comprising:
20 using a face detection module coupled to the at least one sensor for detecting a face in the confined space in response to a signal output from the surveillance system;
and
in response to an electronic signal indicating the presence of a hazardous condition in the confined space, initiating a remedial action.

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12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein initiating a remedial action comprises triggering an alarm.

13. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one sensor comprises a
30 camera.

14. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein initiating a remedial action comprises one of opening and securing an accessway to the confined space.

15. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the confined space comprises an interior portion of a vehicle, further comprising:

using an electronic control unit to receive the electronic signal indicating the presence of a hazardous condition; and

receiving, at the electronic control unit, an electronic signal from a driver detection system indicating that a driver is not present.

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16. The method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

receiving, at the electronic control unit, an electronic signal indicating the absence of a key inserted in the ignition of the vehicle.

17. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein initiating a remedial action comprises sending a notification to one of a driver of the vehicle and an owner of the vehicle.

18. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein initiating a remedial action comprises causing at least one window to be opened.

19. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein initiating a remedial action comprises causing a heating system to be turned on.

20. An intrusion detection system for an environment being monitored by a surveillance system that has at least one sensor, wherein the environment includes a computer system, comprising:

a face detection module coupled to the at least one sensor;

a face recognition module for comparing a detected face to a known database of faces and for identifying a scenario in which a high likelihood of illegitimate access to the environment exists; and

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an electronic control module for initiating a preemptive data backup of the computer system in response to the identification of a scenario in which a high likelihood of illegitimate access to the environment exists.

5 21. The system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the at least one sensor comprises an image monitoring system.

22. The system as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a change detection module for processing at least one image signal from the image monitoring system.

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23. The system as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a tracking module for receiving an output signal from the change detection module.

15 24. The system as claimed in claim 23, further comprising a head detection module capable of receiving an output signal from the tracking module.

25. In an environment that includes a surveillance system that uses at least one sensor, and a computer system in the environment, a method for backing up data preemptively, comprising:

20 in response to a signal output from the surveillance system, identifying a scenario in which a high likelihood of illegitimate access to the environment exists; and
 initiating a data backup of the computer system.

25 26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the identifying is performed by detecting a face using a face detection module coupled to the at least one sensor; and

 determining whether a face is known by using a face recognition module to compare a detected face to a known database of faces.

30 27. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein initiating the data backup is done in response to determining that a face is not known.

28. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the at least one sensor comprises an image monitoring system.

5 29. A computer program product embodied in a tangible medium comprising:
computer readable program codes coupled to the tangible medium for backing up
data of a computer system that is in an environment monitored by a surveillance system,
the computer readable program codes configured to cause the program to:
identify, in response to a signal received from the surveillance system, a scenario
10 in which a high likelihood exists of illegitimate access to the environment; and
initiating a preemptive data backup of the computer system.

30. A computer program product embodied in a tangible medium comprising:
computer readable program codes coupled to the tangible medium for initiating an
15 alarm in response to a detection of a presence of a person in an environment monitored
by a surveillance system that has at least one sensor, the computer readable program
codes configured to cause the program to:
receive a signal output from the at least one sensor;
detect a face in the environment in response to the signal output from the
20 surveillance system; and
initiate an alarm in response to an electronic signal indicating the presence of a
hazardous condition in the environment.